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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BUREAU



TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

Room A201  
COGSWELL BUILDING

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 449-2821

PLEASE RETURN

HELENA, MONTANA 59620



July 16, 1981

Board of County Commissioners, Sanders County Courthouse, Thompson Falls, MT  
David Haase, Mayor, Town of Thompson Falls, P. O. Box 361, Thompson Falls, MT  
Sanders County Planning Office, Courthouse, Thompson Falls, MT  
Marlene Gaither, Co. Sanitarian, Sanders County Courthouse, Thompson Falls, MT  
Ellen Prouty, East Shore Route, Bigfork, MT 59911  
Thompson Falls Refuse Disposal District, P. O. Box 633, Thompson Falls, MT  
Tom Ellerhoff, Environmental Sciences Division, OHES, Helena, MT  
Environmental Quality Council, 1209 8th Avenue, Helena, MT

Interested Parties:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, Section 16-2.2(2)-P2030, Rule IV, the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning a new sanitary landfill for Thompson Falls Refuse Disposal District.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15) days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within the allotted time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James E. Leiter".  
JAMES E. LEITER  
Solid Waste Management Bureau  
Environmental Sciences Division

JEL:vc  
Encls.

cc: Myron Holzheimer, Right-of-Way Bureau, Dept. of Highways, Helena, MT

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HELENA, MONTANA 59620



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES  
Cogswell Building, Helena, Montana 59601  
(406)449-3946

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences/ Solid Waste Management Bureau  
Project or Application Thompson Falls Refuse Disposal District  
Description of Project The Thompson Falls Refuse Disposal District desires to  
license a new sanitary landfill as a replacement site for the existing  
landfill near the community of Thompson Falls. The proposed location is  
approximately 11 miles west of Thompson Falls on Highway 200 and is  
specifically located at SW¼, Section 28, Township 23 North, Range 30 West,  
Sanders County. A copy of the original application and supplemental  
information is available in the office of the Solid Waste Management Bureau.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats			X			X
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution				X		
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture			X			X
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality			X			X
5. Aesthetics			X			X
6. Air quality				X		
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy			X			X
9. Historical and archaeological sites				X		

# POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
Social structures and mores				X		
Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
Local and state tax base & tax revenue				X		
Agricultural or industrial production			-	X		
Human health				X		
Quantity and distribution of community and personal income				X		
Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
Quantity and distribution of employment				X		
Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
Demands for government services				X		
Industrial & commercial activity			X			X
Demands for energy			X			X
Locally adopted environmental plans & goals				X		
Transportation networks & traffic flows			X			X

ner groups or agencies contacted or  
 ich may have overlapping jurisdiction Sanders County Sanitarian

individuals or groups contributing to this PER. David Bowen, Consulting Hydrogeologist

commendation concerning preparation of EIS None required

R Prepared by: *James E. Leiter*

te: July 16, 1981 JAMES E. LEITER

## POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

### #1) Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitats

The proposed site may pose a minor impact on the terrestrial wildlife population in the immediate area of the landfill. Such impact should be temporary, lasting only for that period in which the landfill is in active service.

### #3) Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture

Displacement of the native soils with solid wastes will have a minor impact upon the soil stability and moisture holding capabilities of the soils at the site. Some subsequent settling should occur in the filled areas, but the effect should be minimal with proper compaction of the solid waste during the operating years.

### #4) Vegetation Cover, Quantity, and Quality

Vegetative cover in the active fill area will be temporarily removed during site operation. Native vegetation should return quickly to completed areas. The proposed fill plan calls for maintenance of a buffer zone of trees along Highway 200, and the landfill will be largely hidden from public view.

### #5) Aesthetics

Relocation of the landfill to the new area will naturally have a minor temporary impact on aesthetics in the new area. The fill plan calls for maintenance of as much natural vegetative cover as possible in the buffer zone along Highway 200. Once the landfill's active life is completed, final cover is in place, and natural revegetation occurs, there should be no aesthetic impact.

### #8) Demands on Environmental Resources of Land, Water, Air, and Energy

Approximately 37 acres are available and will be utilized in five acre parcels; thus portions of the land will be removed from other productive uses during the fill process. Top soil removed from trenching will be stockpiled to recover the landfill area to its original status of marginal farm or pasture use.

## POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

### #11) Industrial and Commercial Activity

Commercial waste activity will be relocated from the existing site to the new landfill. There will be no increase or decrease of commercial activity overall.

### #12) Demands for Energy

There will be a minor increase in gasoline consumption due to the increased mileage from Thompson Falls, the principal waste generation zone.

### #14) Transportation Networks and Traffic Flows

The new location will affect a minor increase in the daily traffic flow on Highway 200 between Thompson Falls and the Belknap-Whitepine area.



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TED SCHWINOEN, GOVERNOR

COGSWELL BUILDING, ROOM A201

STATE OF MONTANA

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HELENA, MONTANA 59620

PUBLIC NOTICE

An application for the licensing of a solid waste management system has been submitted to the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, Solid Waste Management Bureau, for processing. The name and address of the applicant follows:

Thompson Falls Refuse Disposal District  
P. O. Box 633  
Thompson Falls, MT 59873

The solid waste management system is located in the SW 1/4 of Section 28 Township 23N Range 30W, Sanders County, and serves the following area(s): Thompson Falls and vicinity.

The application has been reviewed by the department and has been found to be complete. The proposed decision of the department is to:

☒ License

License

☐ Conditionally license

Conditionally license

☐ Deny licensing the proposed solid waste management system.

Deny licensing the proposed solid waste management system.

The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of the proposed decision of the department and to seek their participation in the decision-making process. Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM), Rule 16.14.511 (4), a thirty-day period from the date of this notice will be given for the public to submit written comments to the department concerning the license application. All comments should be addressed to the Solid Waste Management Bureau, Cogswell Building, Room A201, Helena, Montana 59620. Interested persons may obtain copies of the completed application upon request by enclosing the copying cost of \$1.00.

Dated this 16 day of July, 19 81.

